

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (original): A merchandising track device for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

first and second elongate track members formed separately as two discrete structures, said first and second members being connected together in an end-to-end, longitudinally adjacent relationship, each of said members comprising a track base for carrying articles for sliding movement along said each member, and at least one article-guiding side wall upstanding from said track base of said each member and extending along said each member, said one side wall of said first member being disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one side wall of said second member and including a portion extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one side wall of said second member, said one side wall of said second member having a cutout opening to said upper edge thereof and to opposite side surfaces thereof;

locking means integrally formed with said first member for interconnecting said one side wall of said first member and said one side wall of said second member to lock said members in position relative to each other, said locking means comprising a flexible overhang extending rearward from said portion of said one side wall of said first member and disposed over said upper edge of said one side wall of said second member, said flexible overhang engages side of said one side wall of said second member with a lug formed integrally with said overhang and received in said cutout, whereby longitudinal displacement

of said one side wall of said first member relative to said
30 one side wall of said second member is prevented; and

a pair of engaging tabs provided disposed
respectively alongside said opposite side surfaces of said
one side wall of said second member with at least one of
said engaging tabs formed on said lug so that lateral
35 displacement of said one side wall of said first member
relative to said one side wall of said second member is
prevented.

Claim 2 (original): A merchandising track device
for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

an elongate body having a forward end, said body
comprising a track base for carrying a row of articles for
5 sliding movement along said body, a tongue extending
forwardly from said track base and defining said forward
end of said body, and at least one article-guiding side
wall upstanding from said track base and extending along
said body;

10 a front piece formed as a discrete structure
separate from said body and attached to said forward end of
said body to provide a stopper for preventing a leading
article in said row from exiting said track device, said
front piece comprising a deck for supporting said leading
15 article, at least one upright wall upstanding from said
deck and disposed in general longitudinal alignment with
said one side wall, said one upright wall including a
portion extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one
sidewall; and locking means for interconnecting said one
20 upright wall and said one side wall to lock said front
piece in position relative to said body, said locking means

25 including a flexible overhang integrally formed with said front piece and extending rearward from said portion of said one upright wall and disposed over said upper edge of said one side wall with said flexible overhang flexing to either side of said one side wall of said second member; and

30 a pair of engaging tabs disposed respectively alongside opposite side surfaces of said one side wall, at least one of said engaging tabs being integrally formed with said overhang, whereby lateral displacement of said one upright wall relative to said one side wall is prevented, and wherein one sidewall has a cutout opening to said upper edge and said opposite side surface thereof, and
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least one engaging tab is formed on a lug to engage in said cutout.

Claim 3 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said lug has a thickness greater than a thickness of said one side wall, and both said engaging tabs are formed on said lug.

5 Claim 4 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said tongue is provided with a hooking element projecting therefrom, and said deck has a strip portion having a front and rear opposed faces, said front face providing an edge for engaging said hooking element to prevent forward displacement of said front piece with respect to said body, said rear face sloping to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said socket.

Claim 5 (original): The track device according to claim 4, wherein said engaging edge of said deck extends transversely of said body.

Claim 6 (original): The track device according to claim 5, wherein said strip portion is provided by said lower wall and extends transversely of said body, said rear face of said strip portion sloping downwardly and rearwardly, said hooking element projecting downwardly from a lower surface of said tongue.

Claim 7 (original): The track device according to claim 4, wherein said tongue is formed with at least one notch for dividing said tongue into plural portions so that one of said plural portions exhibits substantial flexibility, and said one of said plural portions is provided with said hooking element.

Claim 8 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said engaging tabs are disposed with a lateral gap therebetween to receive in said gap an edge of said one sidewall.

Claim 9 (original): The track device according to claim 8, wherein said engaging tabs are opposed to each other across a thickness of said one side wall.

Claim 10 (original): The track device according to claim 8, wherein said engaging tabs are disposed at positions offset from each other along a length of said one side wall.

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Claim 11 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said body and said front piece are formed from different material.

Claim 12 (original): The track device according to claim 11, wherein said body is molded of polystyrene, and said front piece is molded of polycarbonate.

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Claim 13 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said tongue is formed with at least one notch for dividing said tongue into plural portions so that one of said plural portions exhibits substantial flexibility, and said one of said plural portions is provided with said hooking element.

Claim 14 (original): A merchandising track device for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

first and second elongate track members formed separately as two discrete structures, said first and second members being connected together in an end-to-end, longitudinally adjacent relationship, each of said members comprising a track base for carrying articles for sliding movement along said each member, and at least one article-guiding side wall upstanding from said track base of said each member and extending along said each member, said one side wall of said first member being disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one side wall of said second member and including a portion extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one side wall of said second member, said one side wall of said second member

having a cutout opening to said upper edge thereof and to opposite side surfaces thereof;

20 said second member comprising a tongue extending longitudinally from said track base of said second member, said tongue defining an end of said second member, said first member having an end-opening socket for receiving said tongue so that said track bases of said first and second members are interconnected, said tongue being formed on said track base of said second member such that an upper surface of said tongue is disposed below an upper surface 25 of said track base of said second member to allow said upper surface of said track base of said second member and an upper surface of said track base of said first member to form a continuous floor for slidably supporting said articles, wherein said track base of said first member comprises upper and lower opposed walls, and said socket is defined between said upper and lower walls; and

30 locking means integrally formed with said first member for interconnecting said one side wall of said first member and said one side wall of said second member to lock said members in position relative to each other, said locking means comprising a flexible overhang extending rearward from said portion of said one side wall of said first member and disposed over said upper edge of said one side wall of said second member with said flexible overhang flexing to either side of said one side wall of said second member, and a lug with tabs formed integrally with and extending from said overhang and received in said cutout, whereby longitudinal displacement of said one side wall of 40 said first member relative to said one side wall of said second member is prevented.

Claim 15 (original): The track device according to claim 14, wherein said tongue is provided with a hooking element projecting therefrom, and said track base of said first member has a strip portion having a front and rear opposed faces, said front face providing an edge for engaging said hooking element to prevent longitudinal displacement of said first member with respect to said second member, said rear face sloping to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said socket.

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Claim 16 (original): A merchandising track device for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

an elongate body having a forward end, said body comprising a track base for carrying a row of articles for sliding movement along said body, a tongue extending forwardly from said track base and defining said forward end of said body, and at least one article-guiding side wall upstanding from said track base and extending along said body; and

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a front piece formed as a discrete structure separate from said body and attached to said forward end of said body to provide a stopper for preventing a leading article in said row from exiting said track device, said front piece comprising a deck for supporting said leading article, said deck having a socket for receiving said tongue so that said deck and said track base are interconnected, said tongue being formed on said track base such that an upper surface of said tongue is disposed below an upper surface of said track base to allow said upper surface of said track base and an upper surface of said

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deck to form a continuous floor for slidably supporting said articles, at least one upright wall upstanding from said deck and disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one side wall, said one upright wall including a portion extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one sidewall; and locking means integrally formed with said front piece for interconnecting said one upright wall with said one side wall to lock said front piece in position relative to said body, said locking means including a flexible overhang extending rearward from said portion of said one upright wall and disposed over said upper edge of said one side wall having said cutout, said flexible overhang flexing to either side of said one side wall of said second member; and

a pair of engaging tabs disposed respectively alongside opposite side surfaces of said one side wall in a cutout with at least one of said engaging tabs being integrally formed with said overhang so that lateral displacement of said one upright wall relative to said one side wall is prevented.

Claim 17 (original): The track device according to claim 16, wherein said tongue is provided with a hooking element projecting therefrom, and said deck has a strip portion having front and rear opposed faces, said front face providing an edge for engaging said hooking element to prevent forward displacement of said front piece with respect to said body, said rear face sloping to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said socket.

Claims 18-24 (cancelled).

Claim 25 (previously presented): A front panel assembly for a merchandising display track device, said track device being adapted to receive a row of articles for sliding movement therealong, said front panel assembly, comprising:

5 a base adapted to receive said row of articles from said track device for sliding movement therealong;

10 a first upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said first vertical member being permanently connected along its bottom end portion to said base;

15 a first face member connected to said front edge of said first vertical member, said first face member extending laterally a preselected distance from said first vertical member toward said second vertical member;

20 a second upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said second vertical member being laterally spaced from said first vertical member and permanently connected along its bottom end portion to said base;

25 a second face member connected to said front edge of said second vertical member, said second face member extending laterally a preselected distance from said second vertical member toward said first vertical member;

30 an elongate connecting member having a first end connected to said top end portion of said first vertical member and a second end portion connected to said top end portion of said second vertical member, said connecting member curving outwardly away from said vertical members; and

means for detachably attaching said front panel assembly to said track device.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A front panel, as set forth in claim 25, wherein said first and second face members are connected to said base.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A front panel assembly for a merchandising display track device, said track device having a track base adapted to receive a row of articles for sliding movement therealong and a vertical member extending along said track base, said vertical member having a cutout opening to an upper edge thereof and to opposite side surfaces thereof, said front panel assembly, comprising:

10 a floor deck adapted to receive said row of articles from said track base for sliding movement therealong;

means for detachably attaching said floor deck to said track base;

15 a first upstanding vertical member having a top end, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said first vertical member being permanently connected along its bottom end portion to said floor deck;

20 a second upstanding vertical member having a top end, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said second vertical member being laterally spaced from said first vertical member and permanently connected along its bottom end portion to said floor deck;

an elongate connecting member having a first end connected to said top end of said first vertical member and a second end portion connected to said top end of said

25 second vertical member, said connecting member curving outwardly away from said vertical members;

locking means integrally formed with one of said first and second vertical members for interconnecting said vertical member of said track device and said one vertical member to lock said vertical members in position relative to each other, said locking means comprising a flexible overhang extending rearward from said one vertical member and adapted to be disposed over said cutout so that said flexible overhang engages a side of said vertical member of said track device with a lug formed integrally with said flexible overhang and received in said cutout thereby preventing longitudinal displacement of said front panel assembly relative to said track; and

40 a pair of engaging tabs disposed respectively alongside said opposite side surfaces of said vertical member of said track device with at least one of said of said engaging tabs formed on said lug so that lateral displacement of said one vertical member relative to said track device is prevented.

45 Claim 29 (New): A front panel assembly for a merchandising display track device, said track device being adapted to receive rows of articles for sliding movement therealong, said front panel assembly, comprising:

5 a base adapted to receive said rows of articles from said track device for sliding movement therealong;

10 a first upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said first vertical member being permanently connected along its bottom end portion to said base;

15 a second upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said second vertical member being laterally spaced from said first vertical member and permanently connected along its bottom end portion to said base;

20 a third upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said third vertical member being laterally spaced from said second vertical member and permanently connected along its bottom end portion to said base, said second vertical member being intermediate said first and third vertical members;

25 a first face member having a top end portion and a bottom end portion and being connected to said front edge of said first vertical member, said first face member extending laterally a preselected distance from said first vertical member toward said second vertical member;

30 a second face member having a top end portion and a bottom end portion and being connected to said front edge of said second vertical member, said second face member extending laterally a preselected distance from said second vertical member toward said first vertical member and extending laterally a preselected distance from said second vertical member toward said third vertical member; and

35 a third face member having a top end portion and a bottom end portion and being connected to said front edge of said third vertical member, said third face member extending laterally a preselected distance from said third vertical member toward said second vertical member;

40 a first elongate connecting member having a first end connected to said top end portion of said first vertical member and a second end portion connected to said

top end portion of said second vertical member, said first connecting member curving outward away from said first and second vertical members;

45 a second elongate connecting member having a first end connected to said top end portion of said second vertical member and a second end portion connected to said top end portion of said third vertical member, said second connecting member curving outward away from said second and third vertical members; and

50 means for detachably attaching said front panel assembly to said track device.

Claim 30 (New): A front panel, as set forth in claim 29, wherein said first, second and third face members are connected to said base.